

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, 11-25-12 AM NOTES  
"THE REAL LORD'S PRAYER"  
JOHN 17:1-2  
#66 in Series, "Verse-by-Verse Through John"

**Matthew 6:12 (NKJV)** "And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors."

**John 17:1a (ESV)** "When Jesus had spoken these words..."

**Ephesians 1:18 (NKJV)** "the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints".

"... This prayer seems plain and simple, but it is in reality deep, rich, and wide, that which none can fathom."

—Martin Luther

"Its words are plain, yet majestic; simple, yet mysterious. They plunge the reader into the unfathomable depths of the inter-Trinitarian communication between the Father and the Son, and their scope encompasses the entire sweep of redemptive history from election to glorification, including the themes of regeneration, revelation, illumination, sanctification, and preservation. The veil is drawn back and the reader is escorted by Jesus Christ into the Holy of Holies, to the very throne of God."

—John MacArthur

I. Jesus Prays for the Father to Be Glorified Through the Son (v. 1)

**John 2:4b (NKJV)** "My hour has not yet come."

"Give glory to Thy Son, by carrying Him through the cross and the grave, to a triumphal completion of the work He came to do, and by placing Him at Thy right hand, and highly exalting Him above every name that is named. Do this, in order that He may glorify Thee and Thy attributes. Do this, that He may bring fresh glory to Thy holiness, and justice, and mercy, and faithfulness, and prove to the world that Thou art a just God, a holy God, a merciful God and a God that keepeth his Word. My vicarious death and my resurrection will prove this, and bring glory to Thee. Finish the mighty work. Glorify Me, and in so doing glorify Thyself. Finish Thy work, not least, that Thy Son may glorify Thee by bringing many redeemed souls to heaven, to the glory of Thy grace."

—J. C. Ryle

II. Jesus Prays Concerning the Gifts From the Father to the Son (v. 2)

A. The Father Gives the Son Authority (v. 2a)

**Matthew 28:18b (NKJV)** "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth."

**John 10:17-18 (ESV)** "For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. <sup>18</sup>No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I **have authority** to lay it down, and I **have authority** to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."

**John 5:26-27 (NKJV)** "For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, <sup>27</sup>and has given Him **authority** to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man."

B. The Father Gives the Son People (v. 2b)

**Ephesians 1:4 (NKJV)** “just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him ...”

**2 Peter 3:8 (NKJV)** “But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day *is* as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.”

**Hebrews 12:2 (NKJV)** “looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for **the joy that was set before Him** endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

**Acts 2:23 (NKJV)** “Him, being delivered by **the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God**, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death.”

**Acts 3:18 (NKJV)** “But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled.”

**1 Peter 1:19-20 (NKJV)** “but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. <sup>20</sup> He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you.”

**Revelation 13:8b (NKJV)** “...the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.”

“When it comes to salvation, God the Father thought it; God the Son bought it; God the Spirit wrought it.”

—Adrian Rogers

You were saved from the perspective of the Father when He chose you in Christ to give you as a gift to Christ before the world was created. You were saved from the perspective of the Son when He satisfied the wrath and justice of the Father on the cross. You were saved from the perspective of the Holy Spirit when He opened your blinded mind, convicted you of sin, sent someone to you with the Gospel, and enabled you to choose to repent of your sin and to trust in Christ alone to save you.

**Philippians 1:6 (NKJV)** “being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete *it* until the day of Jesus Christ.”

**Romans 8:28-29 (NKJV)** “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose. <sup>29</sup> For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.”

**1 John 3:2 (NKJV)** “Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.”

“The humbling but marvelous reality is that believers are secondary within the scope of God’s eternal plan. The Father’s primary concern is the honor of the Son whom He loves and desires to see glorified. This is why, in eternity past, He promised to redeem a segment of sinful humanity whom He would give to the Son to worship and exalt Him forever.”

—John MacArthur

**John 6:37 (NKJV)** “All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and **the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.**”

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“THE REAL LORD’S PRAYER”  
JOHN 17:1-2  
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How would you answer if I asked you how the Lord’s Prayer begins? Most would say, “Our Father which art in heaven...” Technically (and I admit this is a bit picky), the real Lord’s Prayer begins with, “Father, the hour has come...” The prayer Jesus gave in the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 6:9-13 is often called “The Lord’s Prayer” but it is more accurately called “The Model Prayer” or “The Disciple’s Prayer”. It was given by Jesus to His disciples as a pattern or model for their prayer, but He did not pray this prayer for Himself. A part of this model prayer is **Matthew 6:12 (NKJV)** “And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.” This word translated “debts” is speaking of sins and Jesus had no sins to be forgiven of. What we have in John 17 is the **real** Lord’s Prayer. We are told often in the Gospels that Jesus prayed, but seldom are we told exactly what He prayed. In John 17, Jesus prays and we know the content of His prayer.

John 17 begins in the ESV with, “When Jesus had spoken these words”. What are the words that John is referring to? He is referring to what is called “The Farewell Discourse”. It started back in chapter 13 and it took place in the upper room on the night before Jesus was crucified. It is possible that they were still in the upper room when Jesus voiced this prayer and it is possible that it was somewhere between the upper room and the Garden of Gethsemane. Another interesting possibility is that this prayer was voiced in the Garden of Gethsemane. Almost every theme brought up in the farewell discourse in John 13-16 is dealt with in this prayer Jesus prayed. Here is what we learn from this example of Jesus’ prayer. Truth taught must then be prayed in. This is so important especially those of us who have a teaching ministry in the church (whatever age). It is also important for parents as you teach your children. Teaching is not enough! Much of the prayers for your children ought to be “praying in” what you have taught them. Much of the prayer ministry of the church ought to be given over to praying in what is being taught from the pulpit. The apostle Paul learned that also. He not only taught the churches, he prayed in what was taught. In Ephesians 1:3-16 we are taught wonderful truths about our identity in Christ. Then we see Ephesians 1:18 a prayer that prays in what they were taught. **Ephesians 1:18 (NKJV)** “the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints”. Jesus has just taught His disciples and us about Heaven, the ministry of the indwelling Holy Spirit, His peace that He gives us in troubled times, how to abide in Him, and expecting tribulation. Now, He prays in what He has taught. What a lesson for us!

You are going to be blessed, challenged, and perhaps a little frustrated as you study this amazing chapter. You will come out of this chapter with some unanswered questions. The reformer, Martin Luther said of John 17, “... This prayer seems plain and simple, but it is in reality deep, rich, and wide, that which none can fathom”. [J. C. Ryle, *Expository Thoughts on the Gospels, Volume Four*, page 173]. John MacArthur gives a great summary of this prayer recorded for us in John 17: “Its words are plain, yet majestic; simple, yet mysterious. They plunge the reader into the unfathomable depths of the inter-Trinitarian communication between the Father and the Son, and their scope encompasses the entire sweep of redemptive history from election to glorification, including the themes of regeneration, revelation, illumination, sanctification, and preservation. The veil is drawn back and the reader is escorted by Jesus Christ into the Holy of Holies, to the very throne of God.” [John MacArthur, “John, Volume II”, Page 235-236]. What we have in John 17 is God the Son speaking with God the Father and by the inspiration of God the Spirit we are able to listen in. That is amazing!

#### I. Jesus Prays for the Father to Be Glorified through the Son (V1)

What does Jesus mean when He says, “Father, the hour is come”? This is the 7<sup>th</sup> time Jesus spoke of “the hour”. For example, he said in **John 2:4b (NKJV)** “My hour has not yet come.” What is this “hour” that He spoke of so often? The word “hour” refers to a set period of time, not necessarily a literal 60

minutes. We use it in English that way also – “This is the hour of destiny”. The hour that Jesus is referring to is when God the Son would finish the work that He came to do; it is the hour when scores of Old Testament prophecies would be fulfilled; it is the hour when He who knew no sin would become sin and suffer the wrath of a holy God that we deserved so that we could be forgiven and become partakers of His righteousness. It is the hour when He would be powerfully raised from the dead and then ascend up to heaven. It was the key hour in the history of the world! It was for this hour that Jesus came. Now the hour has come as the cross looms only a few literal 60 minute hours ahead.

Jesus’ request as He opens His prayer is amazing. He prays that the Father would glorify Him that He might in turn glorify the Father. What does this mean? In order to understand this request Jesus is making, we need to be sure that we understand the word “glorify”. This word in one of its forms is used 8 times in this Lord’s Prayer. To glorify God is the true goal of prayer. We’ve looked at this before, but because of its importance we need to look at it often. When the New Testament word translated “glory” is applied to God, it is referring to the sum total of His attributes, His perfections, and His beauty. To glorify God is simply to put His glory (His perfections, His attributes, and His beauty) in the spotlight. It is to magnify, make evident His fame, His beauty, His excellence, and His renown. What Jesus was praying is that God the Father would be glorified by God the Son being glorified in all that happened in His “hour” (cross, resurrection, and the ascension). J.C. Ryle paraphrased this last part of verse one and I think it he really gets the true meaning of what Jesus prayed: “Give glory to Thy Son, by carrying Him through the cross and the grave, to a triumphal completion of the work He came to do, and by placing Him at Thy right hand, and highly exalting Him above every name that is named. Do this, in order that He may glorify Thee and Thy attributes. Do this, that He may bring fresh glory to Thy holiness, and justice, and mercy, and faithfulness, and prove to the world that Thou art a just God, a holy God, a merciful God and a God that keepeth his Word. My vicarious death and my resurrection will prove this, and bring glory to Thee. Finish the mighty work. Glorify Me, and in so doing glorify Thyself. Finish Thy work, not least, that Thy Son may glorify Thee by bringing many redeemed souls to heaven, to the glory of Thy grace.” [J. C. Ryle, “Expository Thoughts on the Gospels, Volume IV”, Page 173]. Jesus Christ is praying that He, Himself would be glorified in His substitutionary death, His resurrection, and His ascension to the Father’s right hand because that is the means of the fullest glory coming to the Father. It was the Father that sent His Son and displayed His holiness, justice, and wrath in judging sin by killing His own Son. It was the Father who raised His Son from the dead when all the powers of Hell sought to keep Him in the grave. It was the Father who accepted the Son’s offering for sin that displayed His mercy, His grace, and His astounding love toward sinners like us! It was the Father who was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself.

The day that we stop seeing the goal of prayer as getting rid of uncomfortable circumstances, tough situations, pain, and when we stop seeing prayer as the means to getting worldly comforts and acclaim, and start seeing the goal of prayer that God be magnified so that others may see His beauty, His renown, His excellence, His attributes on display, that His fame is spread throughout the nations, THEN we will start seeing miraculous answers to prayer!

## II. Jesus Prays Concerning the Gifts from the Father to the Son (V2)

In verses 2-3, there are three gifts. There are two gifts that the Father gives to the Son and one gift that the Son gives to those who savingly believe in Him. We will look at this gift the Son gives to those who savingly believe in Him in the next message. What are the two gifts that the Father gives to the Son.

### A. The Father Gives the Son Authority (V2a)

Authority is the right to exercise power. Genuine authority must have these two ingredients – the right to act and the power to act. God the Son has been given all authority in heaven and on earth by the Father. He says in **Matthew 28:18 (NKJV)** "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth." What is included in that “all authority in heaven and earth”? Let me share a few specifics. First, He had authority to die and be raised again. **John 10:17-18 (ESV)** “For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. <sup>18</sup>No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have

authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.” Second, the Father has given the Son the authority to judge. **John 5:26-27 (NKJV)** “For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself,<sup>27</sup> and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man.” Third, as we will see in the next message, this authority given by the Father to the Son includes giving eternal life to those who savingly believe in Him.

#### B. The Father Gives the Son People (V2b)

In this prayer of Jesus, we enter into some mysterious areas that I don’t profess to fully understand. I want to be faithful to proclaim clearly what the Scriptures are saying even when I can’t fully comprehend all of the reasons and ramifications. There is a distinct group of people to whom God the Son gives eternal life. In John 17 (and in some other passages), that distinct group to whom the Son of God gives eternal life is those whom the Father has given to Him. We see this truth throughout John 17. **John 17:6b (NKJV)** “...the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me...” **John 17:9b (NKJV)** “...those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours.” **John 17:11b (NKJV)** “...those whom You have given Me...” **John 17:12b (NKJV)** “Those whom You gave Me I have kept...” **John 17:24b (NKJV)** “...they also whom You gave Me...” What I am about to share is hard for some to accept because we cannot fully understand it. We are going to see that we are in the middle of a divine story, a divine plan in which we are not the major characters. This divine story or plan is all about God – God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit – and while we are involved in the story, we play only a supporting role. We are told in **Ephesians 1:4 (NKJV)** “just as He [God the Father] chose us in Him [in Christ] before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him...” This describes those that the Father has given to the Son. Read again John 17:2 and notice the emphasis on “given” and “give”. All who will receive eternal life from God the Son are those that the Father has given to the Son. Ephesians 1:4 tells us that this gift was given by the Father to the Son before the foundation of the world.

Let me tell you why all of this is so hard for us to comprehend and to accept. We are all bound by time. Time – past, present, and future – is all that we have ever known. We see everything in a time sequence. We think chronologically. Yet God, who created time, is outside the time dimension and thus is not bound by time. He sees the end and beginning and all between them at the same time. This is what Peter is telling us in **2 Peter 3:8 (NKJV)** “But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day *is* as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.” God is not bound by the time dimension that He created.

That is how this divine plan, this story began. The Father knew that sin would come into the world and though these given to the Son were in the Father’s image, that image would be distorted by sin. Adam and Eve’s sin did not catch God by surprise. In order to deal with sin the Son would have to take on human flesh and become a substitute for those the Father had given Him and bear the wrath of the Father for their sin on an old rugged cross. On this cross, not only would the perfections of the Son be magnified as He loved condemned sinners, the perfections of the Father would be magnified also – God’s power, holiness, justice, wrath, love, grace, mercy, compassion, omniscience, and more would be displayed at the cross. While the cross was agonizing for the Lord Jesus (by taking our sin, He would suffer temporary separation from the Father for a time), He rejoiced that through the cross He would purchase the salvation of those given to Him by the Father. We read in **Hebrews 12:2 (NKJV)** “looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for **the joy that was set before Him** endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” What was “the joy set before Him” that motivated Him to endure the cross? It was the knowledge that by His death He would secure the salvation of all those the Father had given to Him. Not only did God choose a people for the Son before the foundation of the world, He determined that the Son would die to redeem them before the foundation of the world. The cross was not an accident; it was an appointment. Peter said in **Acts 2:23 (NKJV)** “Him, being delivered **by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God**, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death”. The prophets told of the suffering of Christ over and over. **Acts**

**3:18 (NKJV)** “But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled.” We read in **1 Peter 1:19-20 (NKJV)** “<sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. <sup>20</sup> He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you”. That speaks of the cross where His blood was shed that was foreordained before the creation of the world. **Revelation 13:8b (NKJV)** “...the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.” God is not simply reacting to what man does. This was a part of the plan of God before the world was created. Let’s review the plan, the divine story. God the Father is the originator of this plan, this story; God the Son is the one who executes the plan; God the Spirit is the one who applies what the Son has achieved to those the Father has given to the Son. Adrian Rogers put it this way: “When it comes to salvation, God the Father thought it; God the Son bought it; God the Spirit wrought it.” Let’s try to see this story as it works out in the time dimension by looking at the Trinity’s involvement in this eternal plan. If you are saved (reconciled to God), you were saved from the perspective of the Father when He chose you in Christ to give you as a gift to Christ before the world was created. You were saved from the perspective of the Son when He satisfied the wrath and justice of the Father on the cross. You were saved from the perspective of the Holy Spirit when He opened your blinded mind, convicted you of sin, sent someone to you with the Gospel, and enabled you to choose to repent of your sin and to trust in Christ alone to save you. The obvious result is that **ONLY** God is glorified in our salvation; we have no grounds for boasting in anything in ourselves.

God’s story, His plan doesn’t say “The end” when we come to know Christ. When those who the Father has given to the Son turn from their sin and savingly believe on Him, God begins a work in them to conform them to the likeness of Christ. He will never give up on those He has given to the Son. **Philippians 1:6 (NKJV)** “being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete *it* until the day of Jesus Christ”. The “work” is salvation and the completion of it is when we are made like Christ (glorification). Here on earth we see God’s plan being worked out in those He gave to Christ in **Romans 8:28-29 (NKJV)** “<sup>28</sup> And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose. <sup>29</sup> For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.” That work will be complete when we see Christ at His return or our going to be with Him. **1 John 3:2 (NKJV)** “Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, **we shall be like Him**, for we shall see Him as He is.” Glory!! When we have been made like Him we will be equipped to perfectly worship Him and give Him glory throughout eternity, and that is the reason God chose us from the foundation of the world. This is wonderful but also humbling. John MacArthur said it well: “The humbling but marvelous reality is that believers are secondary within the scope of God’s eternal plan. The father’s primary concern is the honor of the Son whom He loves and desires to see glorified. This is why, in eternity past, He promised to redeem a segment of sinful humanity whom He would give to the Son to worship and exalt Him forever” [John MacArthur, “Commentary on John, Volume II”, Page 248].

#### CONCLUSION

Don’t get frustrated if you’re having trouble putting all the truths in this message together. I would encourage you that if you are saved, rejoice that you are the Father’s love gift to the Son. If you are not saved, we read in **John 6:37 (NKJV)** “All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.” Whosoever will come to Jesus for salvation will not be turned away.